MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

November 21, 1950 9:30 a.m.

The third meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts, during the fiscal year 1951, was held in its Office in the Interior Department Building on Tuesday, November 21, 1950. The following members were present:

Mr. Neild,
Mr. Belluschi,
Mr. deNeldon,
Mr. Peets,
Mr. Biddle,
also H. P. Caemmerer, Secretary and Administrative Officer.

The Meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

The Secretary reported that Chairman Finley and Professor Hudnut were prevented from being present on account of illness. Thereupon, Mr. Neild was designated to preside at the meeting.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING: The Minutes of the meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts, held on October 6, 1950, were approved.

2. ELECTION OF A VICE CHAIRMAN: The Commission considered the question of election of a Vice Chairman, but due to the absence of Chairman Finley and Professor Hudnut action in the matter was deferred until the next meeting.

3. GANDHI MEMORIAL: The Secretary presented a letter received from Mr. J. J. Singh, President of the India League of America (Exhibit A), accepting the offer of the Commission of Fine Arts (concurred in by the National Capital Park and Planning Commission) to locate the Gandhi Memorial on the south side of East Capitol Street, between Fourth and Sixth Streets, S. E. The Commission agreed, accordingly, to send a letter to Senator Green, Chairman of the Joint Committee on the Library, for appropriate action by his Committee, as required by the Act of Congress for the Memorial (Exhibit B).

4. DOUGLAS JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL: Mr. Merrel A. Coe, Municipal Architect, submitted a design for the Douglas Junior High School, to be built at Stanton and Douglas Roads, S. E., in Anacostia.

The Commission considered the design, which was drawn in the contemporary style of architecture for public school buildings. The building will be faced with brick, reinforced concrete, cinder block backing, asphalt tile floor, steel sash, cinder block walls for the class rooms, painted. It will be a two-story building, with an arrangement for a third floor later on as needed. The cost of the building is estimated at $1,702,000. Money is available to begin construction.

Upon the recommendation of Mr. Belluschi, the Commission approved the design (Exhibit C).

5. OPERATIONAL CONTROL CENTER BUILDING, Lorton, Virginia: Mr. Coe submitted a design for this building, to be built at the District of Columbia Reformatory at Lorton, Virginia. The Commission considered the design.

Mr. Neild and Mr. Belluschi recommended a few changes in matters of detail, such as taking off the false chimneys and cornice. The design was approved, subject to those changes (Exhibit D).

Mr. Coe said the building was designed in the colonial style of architecture to conform to other existing buildings on the grounds, and will fit into the group.

6. SCULPTURE FOR THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH BUILDING: Mr. deWeldon reported that on October 16th he and Mr. Biddle inspected the models by Vincent Glinskey, sculptor, of New York City, for sculpture in the National Institute of Health Building, Bethesda, Maryland, and approved them. The Commission concurred in the report, and also saw photographs of the models presented by the Public Buildings Administration. The sculpture will portray portraits of leaders in medicine and science. (Exhibit E)

7. AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION, WORLD WAR II MEMORIALS: Brig. Gen. Thomas North, Secretary of the American Battle Monuments Commission, accompanied by Mr. John F. Harbeson, Consulting Architect, presented the following projects for the consideration of the Commission:

(a) Model for Memorial Chapel, Manila, P.I.: The model was made by Gardner Dailey, of San Francisco, architect, in the form of two large hemicycles placed in juxtaposition, with stelae at intervals on which some 30,000 names of Unknown Dead are to be carved.

Mr. Belluschi said he saw the design under development and was generally satisfied with it. No detailed treatment of the ends of the "hemicycles" was shown. Mr. Peets said he would have some suggestions regarding the landscape treatment to offer.

(b) Mr. Harbeson offered the name of Herbert Gute, painter, of Yale University, for painting the mural decorations at St. Laurent (Omaha Beach Head), France.

Mr. Biddle asked permission to submit a list of names of artists competent for the work. Thereupon, Mr. Biddle and Mr. deWeldon were appointed a committee to submit a report on the subject at the next meeting of the Commission.

(c) Mr. Harbeson recommended Allyn R. Jennings, for appointment as landscape architect for the St. Avold American Military Cemetery. Mr. Peets took the name under advisement.

8. RESURFACING THE ARLINGTON MEMORIAL BRIDGE: The Commission considered a preliminary report by Mr. Peets on the subject of resurfacing the Arlington Memorial Bridge, as follows:

> At the meeting on October 6th, the Commission was impressed by the sincerity and the strong convictions of the National Capital Parks representatives and their witnesses. The members concurred, in a general sense, with the principles cited as bearing on the

design of monumental bridges. They felt, however, that the speakers, in discussing the aesthetic value of the granite pavement, too often referred to the Bridge as if it were a self-contained and separately observed work of art. The Commissioners felt that the monumental quality of the composition running from the Lincoln Memorial to the Lee Mansion was more seriously threatened by failures of continuity and connection between its parts than by any deficiency of detail in the constituent elements of the design. In any case, there is a presumption in favor of uniformity in the pavement since it is the element which connects all the others.

They also felt that the human factor should be considered more closely. Civic art is civic drama; the final purpose of the design is the emotional elevation of those who take part in the drama. To secure this participation, the stage should be designed for the comfort of the actors. In any broad sense, we must admit, this was not done in the monumental group we are considering. The architects and traffic-planners have arranged things so that most Americans see the grandiose approach to Arlington Cemetery from a moving automobile; we sense the pathos of Lincoln and Lee and we do reverence to the heroes who lie in Arlington -- while we jocky for the right lane at a traffic circle.

In this total situation no radical correction can be made; the best we can do is to manipulate details so that the cars may flow through the monumental area as smoothly and safely, and with as little irritation to their occupants, as is possible.

The present pavement of the Arlington Memorial Bridge does not meet this specification. When a car comes to the Bridge and enters the granite block zone there is a sudden change in the vibration of the car and the sound of the tires. These conditions change for a moment as the lift-span is crossed, then resume.

The members of the Commission do not see that the traditional association of granite with monumentality is valid enough to compensate for the distractions the driver experiences at the very moments when mind is assumed to sense a heightening of monumental significance.

We believe, rather, that the approach from the Lincoln Memorial to the Arlington Cemetery would gain in unity, beauty and dignity by being paved as uniformly as is technically feasible.

Mr. Harry T. Thompson, Assistant Superintendent, National Capital Parks, submitted a report (Exhibit F) on the number of accidents that occured on the Arlington Memorial Bridge and the Old Fourteenth Street Bridge during the years 1948 and 1949. Mr. Neild pointed out that a considerable greater number of accidents occurred on wet granite blocks than on wet asphalt of the Old Fourteenth Street Bridge.

Mr. Peets was asked to formulate a report that would be sent to the members for further comment and approval, whereupon it is to be sent to the Office of National Capital Parks, National Park Service.

9. APARTMENT BUILDING AT 25th AND E STREETS, N. W.: The Secretary presented a letter, signed by Mr. Finley, addressed to the President of the United States (Exhibit G), also signed by A. E. Demaray, Acting Chairman of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, asking for the President's help in acquiring about a half-dozen lots (assessed at about $25,000) on which the Kass Realty Company proposes to build an apartment, and for which the Company had submitted a design, which the Commission considered in general to be satisfactory. (Exhibit G-1)

The Commission approved the letter and it was sent to the National Capital Park and Planning Commission for transmission to the White House).

10. INTERNATIONAL TEAMSTERS UNION BUILDING: The Commission considered a revised design submitted by Holabird & Root and Burgee, Architects, of Chicago, for the treatment of their proposed headquarters building facing Union Station Plaza at Louisiana Avenue and C Streets, N. W.

Mr. Belluschi had reported (Exhibit H) that he was still opposed to the proposed treatment of the Union Station Plaza front, but would not further interpose objection to final approval of the design. The design was thereupon finally approved, and the architects were informed accordingly (Exhibit I).

11. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN BUILDING: The Commission considered three designs (A, B, and C) for the treatment of the entrance of the building, by Leon Chatelain, architect:

November 9, 1950

"Enclosed are four copies each of three schemes for the front entrance of the above building. As you will recall, the Fine Arts Commission requested that we give this doorway some additional study. These are noted Scheme A, B and C. Scheme A shows the entrance recessed; Scheme B and C are shown with a "frame" around the opening. The entrance doorway will be built of a rose polished granite with aluminum doors and trim. As you know, this building operation has been started and the foundations are now being installed.

"We would appreciate the Commission advising us of its decision in this matter as soon as possible."

The Commission considered the design to be an improvement over that previously submitted, and favored Scheme A.

However, Mr. Neild said, "Mr. Belluschi and I would still like to see that front entrance lowered, if that were possible. I do not believe either of us have the idea of demanding it, but we still would like to recommend it. I think the rest of the design is satisfactory. That design conforms very well with the buildings in the neighborhood. I think it is more suitable than the original."

Mr. Peets said, "If they did reduce the entrance feature to that line there (indicating), I wonder if we could offer them some compensation by way of a horizontal panel over the door which would tend to emphasize the entrance as they want to."

Thereupon, Mr. Belluschi moved, "That the project as presented is acceptable with the exception that the Commission would like to see the main entrance restudied so it would not be so forced in appearance and suggesting that perhaps the band or course above the first floor be carried through."

It was further suggested that the architect confer with Mr. Neild. A letter was sent to Mr. Chatelain accordingly (Exhibit J).

12. PLAN OF WASHINGTON, PICTURES AND MODELS: The Secretary stated that the time for the Exhibition on the Plan of Washington at the Corcoran Gallery of Art expires at the end of this month, and Chairman Finley has requested in behalf of the Commission (Exhibit K) that the Gallery adjacent to the Commission Room be made available for them. They were there until recent years, when the space was requested by the Secretary of the Interior for an "Indian Exhibit" and later for Reclamation Bureau files.

Mr. deWeldon stated that he had spoken to Assistant Secretary to the President, Mr. Dawson, at the White House, about the matter. "Mr. Dawson

spoke to the Secretary of the Interior in my presence over the phone and the Secretary of the Interior said that the files which are next door here are dead files for the most part and can be removed and he will try to find room for the still active files which are very few. Mr. Chapman agreed that the Gallery was originally built for the Fine Arts Commission and should be used as such.

The Secretary pointed out that the National Capital Park and Planning Commission has the east end of the Gallery for their exhibits; and with the pictures and models (largely of historic interest) at the west end, it makes a most interesting Exhibition on the Plan of Washington about 300 feet in length. Visitors constantly come to the Interior Department to see the Museum on Interior Department activities on the first floor. The Plan of Washington Exhibition ties in with Interior Department activities since the National Park Service of the Department has charge of the parks in the city of Washington.

13. PARKING GARAGE AND STORE BUILDING, 13th & E Streets, and Pennsylvania Avenue, Northwest: Under date of November 17, 1950, the following letter was received from the Kass Realty Company, Incorporated, 4461 Connecticut Ave., N.W.:

> "We submit herewith for your consideration two sets of plans and rendered perspective for a proposed public parking garage and store building to be located at Thirteenth and E Streets and Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W.
>
> "It is our plan that the exterior finish of the building is to be cast in place architectural concrete, having a light gray buff color and finished to give an effect of textured limestone in order to conform in effect to the materials of the United States Post Office Building located at Thirteenth Street and Pennsylvania Ave.,N.W.
>
> "We are at your disposal to attend the hearing should the Commission desire to discuss modifications to our proposed design."

Mr. Neild and Mr. Belluschi gave the design particular attention, and stated that they consider it to be satisfactory. The Garage will hold 500 cars. The material for the exterior will be in keeping with that of the Post Office Department Building, across the Avenue.

The design was referred to the National Capital Park and Planning Commission for approval as to exit and entrance. (Exhibits L and M).

14. MISCELLANEOUS SHIPSTEAD-LUCE ACT SUBMISSIONS: The following sets of plans were received from the Director of Inspection, District of Columbia, and were acted upon, as indicated:

(a) Application No. 1376, for residence at 7116 Alaska Avenue, N. W. Design approved.
(b) Application No. 1387, for residence at 1913 Redwood Terrace, N. W. Design approved.
(c) Application No. 1382, for residence at 1660 Portal Drive, N. W. Design approved.
(d) Application No. 1383, for alteration of residence by building an addition, at 6120 Oregon Avenue, N. W. Design approved.
(e) Application No. 1385, for alteration of store building, at 111 Independence Avenue, S. E. Design approved.
(f) Application No. 1374, for alteration of commercial building at 614 Fifth Street, N. W. Design disapproved; request for re-submission, after further study of design.
(g) Application No. 1373, for commercial building at 448 H Street, N. W. Design considered to be inferior in character. Disapproved; Request for further study and submission of new design.

15. "WASHINGTON PRESENT AND FUTURE": The Commission were pleased to receive from the National Capital Park and Planning Commission copies of their publication just published entitled "Washington Present and Future," being a General Summary of the Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital and its Environs. (Exhibit N)

16. FRANCIS SCOTT KEY MEMORIAL FLAGPOLE: Mr. Merel S. Sager, Chief of the Planning Division, National Capital Parks, submitted a revised design for the Francis Scott Key Memorial Flagpole, proposed for erection at the site of the Key House in Georgetown. The design proposes to retain the shape of the paved area, eliminate the exposed aggregate surfaces and surface the entire area to be paved with flagstone, -- Pennsylvania blue-stone was suggested. There is also to be ground cover with some shrubbery. The base of the flagpole is to be very simple. There is money available for the project.

The Commission decided to give study to the design.

17. GRAVE MARKER FOR BRUMIDI: Mr. Merel S. Sager, Chief of the Planning Division, Office of National Capital Parks, Interior Department, submitted a design for a small headstone to mark the grave of Constantino Brumidi, in Glenwood Cemetery, to commemorate the fact that he spent 25 years decorating the United States Capitol, Congress having authorized an expenditure of $400 for the marker and $100 for perpetual care. The design was made by William M. Hausamann, architect of the National Park Service. Mrs. John R. Murdock, wife of the Congressman from Arizona, took a leading part in having the legislation adopted by Congress and is publishing a book on the work of Brumidi at the Capitol. Brumidi died in 1880 as the result of a fall from a scaffold while painting the frieze in the Rotunda, leaving an incomplete section all of these years.

The design represented a stone block with sloping top, to be constructed in granite with a bronze plaque placed on it, in accordance with the Act of Congress.

Mr. Neild asked that Mr. Sager submit a design of the bronze plaque, and the Commission concurred in this.

18. SCULPTURE FOR THE GREAT ENTRANCE TO ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY: Mr. Harry T. Thompson, Assistant Superintendent, National Capital Parks, presented through Mr. Sager a photostat print of a revised design for the pedestal of a monument, by A. A. Weinman, sculptor, proposed for the niche at the Great Entrance to the Arlington National Cemetery. The statue is to be 22 feet high and has been entitled by Mr. Weinman "The Last Farewell." A report was received from Mr. Thompson that a statue 14 feet 6 inches high would cost $14,000, according to an estimate from the Roman Bronze Works.

In accordance with information requested by the Commission on the subject, the Secretary stated that this is an incomplete project of long

standing, since the dedication of the Arlington Memorial Bridge in 1932. The Commission decided to make the project the subject of study.

19. SIGN FOR HOWARD JOHNSON'S RESTAURANT: The Commission considered a revised design for Howard Johnson's Restaurant, at the site near 27th Street and the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway, Northwest. Mr. Hart of the Public Buildings Administration and Mr. Chico of Boston, representing the firm were present. The design had been simplified considerably, consisting simply of a pole with a panel about 4' x 3' in size and a simple legend giving the title of the restaurant.

The Commission approved the design, with the suggestion that some of the letters, which were quite modernistic, be redesigned so as to be more in keeping with the sign, which suggested the Raleigh Tavern sign at Williamsburg.

20. FIRST DIVISION MEMORIAL, WORLD WAR II: The Commission considered a revised design for the proposed First Division Memorial, World War II, which was submitted recently. It proposes an addition to the World War I First Division A. E. F. Memorial by adding a terrace and plaques with place for names, to commemorate World War II dead of the First Infantry Division.

The Commission inspected the site, and came to the following conclusion:

(a) That no further action should be taken in this matter until the fund needed (believed to be about $50,000) is available. At present about $10,000 is at hand.

(b) There should be no further action taken until also the temporary war building adjacent to the south side of the monument is removed. The Commission were informed that there are State Department offices and White House guards stationed in the building.

A report was sent to Col. A. H. Huguet, Chairman of the Executive Committee, First Division Memorial Association, A. E. F. accordingly (Exhibit O).

21. PORTRAIT OF MRS. HOOVER: At the request of Mr. Finley, the Commission inspected a portrait of Mrs. Herbert Hoover, which had been painted by Miss Lydia Emmet, and which is being offered as a gift to the White House by the Girl Scouts of America.

The Commission approved the portrait, unanimously. A letter was sent, accordingly, ~~the~~ to the Headquarters of the Girl Scouts of the United States of America, New York City (Exhibit P).

22. SETTEES FOR THE WHITE HOUSE: The Secretary presented the following Memorandum received from Mr. Finley:

November 20, 1950

Memorandum to Mr. Caemmerer:

> Mrs. Francis Lenygon, 1010 Madison Avenue, New York, when I saw her there last week, told me that she was willing to give two very important settees to the White House in the event they could be placed in one of the State Rooms as a pair, and could be adequately protected. A description of the settees is attached.
>
> I viewed the settees when I was in New York and found them far more beautiful than was indicated by the photograph. I should like to recommend to the Commission that approval be given for acceptance of the settees, if and when offered to the White House. Mrs. Lenygon is willing to make the offer provided they are acceptable to the Commission and the White House, and suitable arrangements can be made.
>
> David E. Finley, Chairman
> Commission of Fine Arts

The Commission inspected the photograph of the settees, which was presented in the absence of Mr. Finley by Mr. Macgill James, Assistant Director of the National Gallery of Art, and the acceptance of the offer was unanimously approved. An appropriate reply is to be sent to Mrs. Lenygon (Exhibit Q).

23. SURVEY OF THE AREA PRESCRIBED IN THE "OLD GEORGETOWN ACT": The Commission considered a letter received from the National Park Service, A. E. Demaray, Associate Director, (Exhibit R), asking for advice in the matter of having a survey made of the area prescribed in the "Old Georgetown Act." The letter was referred to the Architectural Board of Review for their recommendation in the matter.

24. SUBMISSION OF DESIGNS UNDER THE "OLD GEORGETOWN ACT": The Commission met with the Architectural Board of Review, consisting of Mr. Walter M. Macomber, Mr. Wm. Dewey Foster, and Mr. Lorenzo S. Winslow, architects, at the National Gallery of Art, and passed on plans submitted by the Director of Inspection, District of Columbia, as follows:

Case No. 31, 1649 35th Street, to build fence: An inspection was made of the grounds, and no objection was raised to its erection.

Case No. 32, 1519 35th Street, Alteration of dwelling; design approved.

Case No. 33, 1241 Wisconsin Avenue (similar to Case No. 26) for a change in the store front. An inspection was made of the site and a discussion had with the proprietor, who refused to accept suggestions made by the Board of Review (in which the Commission concurred) to make the store front more in keeping with the character of "Old Georgetown." Accordingly, the design was disapproved.

Case No. 34, 1238 28th Street, N. W. Alteration of dwelling. The design was approved with the understanding that a trowel finish will be used for the plaster, side and back of the residence.

Case No. 35, 1225 37th Street, N. W. Alteration of dwelling; design approved.

Case No. 36, 1522 Wisconsin Ave., N. W. Alteration of commercial building. Design disapproved, since it should be more in character with "Old Georgetown".

25. NEXT MEETING OF THE COMMISSION: The Commission decided that the next meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts shall be held in Washington on Thursday, January 25, 1951.

The Commission were the guests at luncheon of Mr. Finley at the National Gallery of Art, which included Messrs. Macomber, Foster and Winslow of the Architectural Board of Review. All present enjoyed the luncheon very much and expressed profound regret over the illness of Mr. Finley, which prevented his presence. Also the Commission regretted the absence of Prof. Hudnut, on account of illness.

The Commission adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Cables: "INDIALEAG"

INDIA LEAGUE OF AMERICA

40 EAST 49th STREET

NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

Telephone: PLaza 3-5087-5088

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November 3, 1950

Mr. H. P. Caemmerer, Secretary
The Commission of Fine Arts
Interior Department Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Caemmerer:

This will acknowledge the receipt of your letter of October 25 enclosing a memorandum from Mr. John Nolen Jr., Director of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, making some definite suggestions with regard to the site for the proposed Mahatma Gandhi memorial in Washington.

I have also received the plan covering the East Capitol Street development, and the large map showing the development of the Central Area West and East of the Capitol.

According to Mr. Finley's letter of July 25, and my talks with Mr. Finley, you, and Mr. Nolen of October 11, I gather that in accordance with the program of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission and the Fine Arts Commission, "aesthetic development of East Capitol Street" has been taken in hand, thus "making a magnificent approach to the Capitol from the East".

I also understand that because of the existence of the Folger Shakespeare Library, The Library of Congress, and proposed memorial for Justice Holmes, and a museum for the exhibits of the armed forces of the United States, the East Capitol Street will become "the literary and cultural center of the City of Washington."

According to the memorandum of Mr. Nolen, three sites, namely N of 62, area about 3.45 acres: N of 63, area about 5.57 acres; and S of 63, area about 5.57 acres are being considered for the Gandhi memorial.

Mr. Nolen, in his memorandum of October 24, has suggested that the most favorable location for the Gandhi memorial will be site S of 63 between 4th and 6th streets.

It is understood that this land will be acquired by government purchase, that being the intent and purpose of Public Law #309. And that after the land has been acquired by the government, it will be turned over to us for the Mahatma Gandhi memorial.

I have discussed this matter with several members of our Executive Committee and taking into consideration your strong recommendations about the appropriateness of this particular site, and further taking into consideration that it is the purpose of the Fine Arts Commission and the National Capital Park and Planning Commission to improve the East Capitol Street, and make it a cultural center of the City of Washington, we are aggreeable that the site suggested by you is most suitable for the Mahatma Gandhi memorial.

In view of our acceptance, we trust that immediate steps will be taken to get the approval of the Joint Committee on the Library. And steps will also be taken to acquire the land.

As I have personally explained to you, we have not as yet made any move to solicit public funds for the memorial, We shall put all our plans into active work as soon as we learn that the land has been approved and acquired for the memorial.

If there is any additional information that you would need, kindly communicate with me at your earliest convenience.

J. J. Singh, President

India League of America

EXHIBIT A

C O P Y

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
Washington

November 21, 1950

Dear Senator Green:

Under date of September 28, 1949, Congress enacted legislation providing for the erection of a memorial to the memory of Mohandas K. Gandhi (Public Law 309, 81st Congress) "in the city of Washington on such grounds as may be designated by the Fine Arts Commission, subject to the approval of the Joint Committee on the Library."

For the past year the Commission of Fine Arts has been in consultation with Mr. J. J. Singh, President of the India League of America, 40 East 49th Street, New York City, on the subject. Mr. Singh has informed this Commission that it is the desire of the India League to erect a memorial to Mohandas K. Gandhi that will be, in itself, a work of art, and will also reflect the culture of India. To this end they desire to erect a memorial building that will contain an auditorium seating at least 500 people, a library, and a museum, in an appropriate landscape setting, requiring about four acres.

In the consideration of the question of location, the Commission obtained a ruling from the Attorney General of the United States that Government land could be chosen for a site. The National Capital Park and Planning Commission and the National Park Service were thereupon consulted, but none of the sites suggested by them was found to be suitable, excepting one, namely on East Capitol Street, near the Folger

Shakespeare Library. That location is acceptable to the India League of America as you will note from the attached letter from Mr. Singh, dated November 3, 1950. The proposed location is in an area planned for development by the Federal Government in connection with the future widening of East Capitol Street, which is to serve as a magnificant approach to the United States Capitol Building from the East, and forming a connecting link with the Mall to the west of the Capitol.

The land in question along East Capitol Street is at present in private ownership, and both the National Commission of Fine Arts and the National Capital Park and Planning Commission recommend purchase by the Government, so that the Gandhi Memorial may be erected in an appropriate location, adjacent to the cultural and museum center of Washington.

Supporting data with reference to the proposed memorial and the location is enclosed.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

Sgd.

David E. Finley
Chairman.

Honorable Theodore Francis Green, Chairman
Joint Committee on the Library
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT B

C O P Y

CONGRESS of the UNITED STATES
Joint Committee on the Library

hodore Francis Green
eator from Rhode Island
hirman

ay T. Norton
esentative from New Jersey
ie Chairman

al Hayden
eator from Arizona

on C. Stennis
eator from Mississippi

ery Cabot Lodge, Jr.
eator from Massachusetts

Robert C. Hendrickson
Senator from New Jersey

Ken Regan
Representative from Texas

Carl Albert
Representative from Oklahoma

Karl L. LeCompte
Representative from Iowa

C. W. (Runt) Bishop
Representative from Illinois

Russell C. King, Chief Clerk

November 29, 1950

Mr. David E. Finley, Chairman
The Commission of Fine Arts
Interior Department Building
Washington 25, D. C.

My dear Mr. Finley:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter of November 21st with enclosures in connection with the proposed memorial to the memory of Mohandas K. Gandhi.

I shall be glad to draw it to the attention of the Joint Committee on the Library at its next meeting.

Yours sincerely,

Signed

Theodore Francis Green
Chairman.

TFG:ESW

EXHIBIT B-1

C O P Y

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
Washington

November 22, 1950

Dear Mr. Coe:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on November 21, 1950, approved the design which you submitted for the Douglas Junior High School, to be built at Stanton Road and Douglas Road, S. E.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

Mr. Merrel A. Coe
Municipal Architect
Municipal Center Building
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT C

C-O-P-Y

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
Washington

Dear Mr. Coe: November 28, 1950

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on November 21, 1950, considered the design which you submitted for a Central Control Building, to be built at the District of Columbia Reformatory, at Lorton, Virginia.

The Commission took note of the colonial character of the building an d of your statement that it conforms in its style of architecture to buildings erected at the Reformatory during the past twenty-five years.

The Commission recommend that the false chimneys be removed, as also the cornice from the wings having flat roofs. Subject to these changes, the design was approved.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley,
Chairman.

Mr. Merrel A. Coe,
Municipal Architect,
Municipal Center Building,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT D

C O P Y

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
Washington

November 27, 1950

Dear Mr. Hunter:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on November 21, 1950, were pleased to inspect the photographs of models for proposed sculptured panels, by Vincent Glinsky, sculptor, of New York City, for the National Institute of Health building, Bethesda, Md.

Mr. deWeldon reported at the meeting that he and Mr. Biddle inspected these models in the studio of Mr. Glinsky, on October 16, 1950, and upon their recommendation the Commission approved them.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley,
Chairman.

Mr. L. L. Hunter
Acting Supervising Architect
Public Buildings Service
General Services Administration
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT E

C O P Y

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL CAPITAL PARKS
Washington

November 6, 1950

Mr. H. P. Caemmerer, Secretary
National Commission of Fine Arts
Department of the Interior Bldg.
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Caemmerer:

As requested by the National Commission of Fine Arts at its last meeting on October 11, there is listed below a tabulation of accidents on the Arlington Memorial Bridge and the old 14th Street Bridge, both crossing the Potomac River:

Arlington Memorial Bridge

Year	Number of Accidents	Number of Cars Involved	Road Surface Conditions Dry	Wet	Number Injured	Number Killed	Estimated Damage to Vehicles
1948	75	194	36	39	17	0	$18,035
1949	68	172	27	41	24	0	15,390
Total-	143	366	63	80	41	0	$33,425

Old 14th Street Bridge

1948	73	162	58	15	27		$11,000
1949	81	175	65	16	15		14,000
Total-	154	337	123	31	42		$25,000

Sincerely yours,

Sgd.

Harry T. Thompson
Associate Superintendent

EXHIBIT F

Year	Number of accidents	Number of lives involved	Persons killed	Persons injured	Persons rescued	Persons missing	Total number of persons involved
1945	75	160	30	91	39	0	160
1946	65	127	17	94	16	0	127
Total-	140	287	47	185	55	0	287

1945	75	160	30	91	39	0
1946	65	127	17	94	16	0
Total-	140	287	47	185	55	0

C O P Y

NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION
Interior Building
Washington, D. C.

November 15, 1950

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. President:

The National Capital Park and Planning Commission and the Commission of Fine Arts jointly wish to urge your active interest in the need to acquire certain key properties in Washington essential to assure the completion or protection of the central area public building plan of the Nation's Capital, in which is invested several hundred million dollars.

We have from time to time recommended to the Public Buildings Service that it seek funds with which to acquire properties at critical locations in accordance with existing authorizations, but such efforts have been unsuccessful. Meanwhile, land values have increased materially and in several instances adverse private developments have been barely averted. Currently, a large apartment building is proposed on vacant land at 25th and E Streets, N. W., adjacent to a "restricted area" on the old Naval Hospital grounds, occupied by State Department agencies. Aside from interfering with any long-time, future public building development in this area, the apartment building would overlook existing government buildings now relatively secluded.

The need for funds to secure property in critical locations is so vital for the protection of investments already made that we believe an exception to present budget policies is warranted. We will be glad to appear before the Bureau of the Budget to explain the urgency of these matters in detail and present a list of properties to be acquired.

Sincerely yours,

Signed

A. E. Demaray, Acting Chairman
National Capital Park and
Planning Commission

David E. Finley, Chairman
Commission of Fine Arts

EXHIBIT G

C O P Y

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
Washington

November 27, 1950

Dear Sirs:

With reference to your design for an apartment building at 25th and E Streets, N. W. (which is herewith returned), I have to inform you in behalf of the Commission of Fine Arts that the Commission consider the design to be satisfactory.

However, the Commission have been officially advised by the National Capital Park and Planning Commission that the location proposed for it has been designated for development by the Government, and a letter has been sent to the President of the United States bringing this matter to his attention with a view to having the Government purchase the lots which you own in that locality. Furthermore the location is adjacent to a "Restricted Area," there being numerous Government offices in the vicinity.

While you are free to proceed with your apartment development the Commission of Fine Arts feel that it would be unwise to do so. The President is much interested in the orderly development of our National Capital. The area in question is part of what is known as the "Northwest Rectangle," and it is an important part of the Plan of Washington.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley,
Chairman.

Kass Realty Company, Inc.
4461 Connecticut Avenue
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT G-1

COPY

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
Washington

November 7, 1950

Mr. H. P. Caemmerer, Secretary
The Commission of Fine Arts
Room 7000, Interior Dept. Bldg.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Caemmerer:

I received the revised design for the National Headquarters Building of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters as prepared by Holabird, Root and Burgee. I realize that the suggestions made by Professor Hudnut have been followed, and I also have a recollection that the Commission stated that with such revisions they would approve the design. However, I would like to be on record as disapproving the conception as presented. I have the greatest respect for this Chicago firm of architects and I am sure that they are able, if they wish, to give a more sincere and lasting contribution to Washington architecture. I believe that my main objection is the inconsistency of the main facade with the rest of the elevations; also, the idea of introducing a window of monumental size where only small offices lay behind cannot be sustained on any grounds of good design.

I make these criticisms with the greatest reluctance, since I have a great personal affection and respect for Mr. Root, whom I have known for many years, but the issue to my mind is so important that I cannot take any other stand then to be on record in accordance with my convictions.

In regard to the travel order for the airplane round trip, the weather here has been so foggy and uncertain and the plane departures so spotty that I might in all probability come by the Streamliner. I haven't found out yet what I will need in the way of additional or different travel orders. In all events, I will be in Washington on the morning of November 20, as I am anxious to attend some sessions of the meeting on Urban Problems being held on November 20-21.

Sincerely yours,

Sgd.
Pietro Belluschi, Member
The Commission of Fine Arts
2040 S. W. Jefferson
Portland 1, Oregon

PB/ls
cc-Joseph Hudnut

EXHIBIT H

C O P Y

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
Washington

November 27, 1950

Dear Sirs:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on November 21, 1950, approved the revised design which you submitted for the Headquarters Building of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, to be built at the corner of "D" Street and Louisiana Avenue, N. W. here in Washington.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

Sgd.

David E. Finley,
Chairman.

Messrs. Holabird & Root & Burgee
Architects
180 North Wabash Avenue
Chicago, Illinois.

EXHIBIT I

C O P Y

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
Washington

November 28, 1950

Dear Mr. Chatelain:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on November 21, 1950, considered the designs, marked A, B and C, for the entrance to the Benjamin Franklin Building at Third and C Streets, N. W.

The Commission expressed preference for Scheme A, showing the entrance recessed, but felt the entrance is still quite large.

The Commission approved the design, with the recommendation that the entrance be lowered, placing possibly a horizontal panel over the door or perhaps carrying through the band or course above the first floor. Commissioner Neild will communicate with you concerning this matter.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley,
Chairman.

Mr. Leon Chatelain, A.I.A.
1727 K Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT J

C O P Y

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
Washington

October 12, 1950

Dear Mr. deWeldon:

With reference to your request for further information regarding the project to place the Exhibition on the Plan of Washington, by the Commission of Fine Arts, which is in the Corcoran Gallery of Art, in the West Gallery of the New Interior Department Building, seventh floor (where it used to be), I wish to call your attention to a letter written by Chairman Finley of this Commission to Commissioner Reynolds of the Public Buildings Administration on the subject, a copy of which is enclosed, as well as prints of the West Gallery and of the entrance to the West Gallery.

The Exhibition at the Corcoran Gallery of Art must be dismantled and removed by November 30, 1950. In reply to the above mentioned letter Mr. Reynolds has advised that he would endeavor to have the space in the West Gallery cleared of file cases, or else provide storage space for our Exhibition.

To store this Exhibition on the Plan of Washington with its pictures and models illustrating the historic development of our National Capital would, I am sure you will agree, be most unfortunate. This is most valuable historic material and of great interest to visitors to Washington, including city planners and members of allied professions. If I can help you further in this matter, please let me know.

Sincerely yours,

Sgd.

H. P. Caemmerer,
Secretary.

Mr. Felix W. deWeldon, Sculptor
2500 Q Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT K

C O P Y

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
Washington

September 15, 1950

Dear Mr. Reynolds:

When the Commission of Fine Arts moved into the new Interior Department Building in 1937 to occupy a suite of rooms on the seventh floor, there was also assigned to the Commission half of the space in the Gallery adjacent. A few years later the Commission had to relinquish that Gallery space because the then Secretary of the Interior Ickes wanted it to display an American Indian exhibition. Thereupon, about the beginning of World War II the space was assigned to the Bureau of Reclamation and has been used by that Bureau since then simply for file cases.

The Commission of Fine Arts respectfully ask that you arrange to have the file cases above mentioned removed and make that portion of the Gallery available for the purpose originally intended, namely a display of pictures, plans and models illustrating the growth and development of the City of Washington, our National Capital. I am enclosing a copy of the Thirteenth Report of the Commission of Fine Arts which, on page 144, illustrates the appearance of the "West Gallery" when in control of the Commission (as also, on page 145, the "East Gallery," which is still in control of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission).

In connection with the Sesquicentennial Celebration, the Commission of Fine Arts has on display in the Corcoran Gallery of Art an Exhibition on the Plan of Washington, consisting of pictures, plans and models. This is a distinct feature of the Sesquicentennial Celebration and is much appreciated. However, by the end of November of this year the Exhibition must be dismantled and removed from the Corcoran Gallery of Art to some other place; hence the urgency of this request.

If neither the "West Gallery" above mentioned nor some other suitable Exhibition space is made available to the Commission of Fine Arts, it will become necessary to store this interesting and historic material, much of which has been at the basis of development of the City of Washington particularly during the past fifty years. Members of Congress, city planners, and others interested in our National Capital desire to have the Exhibition kept intact, so that the thousands of visitors who come to this city annually from all parts of the United States, may see it.

Your cooperation in this matter will be much appreciated.

Hon. W. E. Reynolds,
Commissioner,
Public Buildings Administration,
General Services,
Washington, D. C.

Sincerely yours,

Sgd.

David E. Finley,
Chairman.

EXHIBIT K

C O P Y

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

November 22, 1950

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Nolen
Director of Planning
National Capital Park
and Planning Commission

I am enclosing a set of drawings and design for a Public Parking Garage, by the Kass Realty Company, 4461 Connecticut Avenue, proposed for erection at Thirteenth and K Streets, N. W. It will hold 500 cars.

The Commission of Fine Arts considered the design at a meeting held on November 21, 1950, and approved it, subject to approval of your Commission as to exits and entrances. Please advise, with return of the drawings and design.

H. P. Caemmerer,
Secretary.

EXHIBIT L

C O P Y

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
Washington

November 27, 1950

Dear Sirs:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on November 21, 1950, approved the design which you submitted with your letter of November 17th for a public parking garage and store building, to be located at Thirteenth and E Streets, and Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W., subject to the approval by the National Capital Park and Planning Commission of the entrance and exit. The design has therefore been referred to that Commission for this purpose.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley,
Chairman.

Kass Realty Company, Inc.
4461 Connecticut Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT M

C O P Y

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
Washington

November 28, 1950

Dear Sirs:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on November 21, 1950, were pleased to receive copies of your publication "Washington Present and Future," and thank you for them. The Commission consider it to be an interesting publication, and one that should serve as a guide in the further development of our National Capital, which is indeed growing to be a great metropolitan city very fast.

There are a number of projects mentioned in the publication of particular interest to the Commission of Fine Arts, such as will still further enhance the beauty of the City of Washington.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley,
Chairman.

The National Capital Park and Planning Commission
Interior Department Building
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT N

C O P Y

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
Washington

November 27, 1950

Dear Colonel Huguet:

Replying to your letter of October 27th, I have to report in behalf of the Commission of Fine Arts that at a meeting held on November 21, 1950, careful consideration was given to the revised design which you submitted for the proposed addition to the First Division A. E. F. Monument, and an inspection was made of the location. The Commission came to the conclusion:

(a) No further action should be taken in this matter until the fund needed to carry out the project is available; an d

(b) Until the temporary war building adjacent to the south side of the monument is removed.

The suggestion that consideration be given to a still further addition, to commemorate World War III, is beyond the scope of existing legislation for a World War II First Infantry Division Memorial.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

Sgd.

David E. Finley,
Chairman.

Col. A. H. Huguet, Chairman
Executive Committee
First Division Memorial Ass'n., A.E.F.
Belmont Plaza Hotel
New York 22, N. Y.

EXHIBIT C

C O P Y

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
Washington

November 22, 1950

Dear Mr. Lathrop:

The Commission of Fine Arts met yesterday and were delighted to recommend acceptance of the gift of the Portrait of Mrs. Hoover by Miss Lydia Emmet for the White House.

I have sent the portrait to Blair House for the President and Mrs. Truman to see, and they also are very happy, indeed, that the portrait will become part of the White House Collection.

I understand that you also wish to clear the matter with Mr. Hoover and, after that has been done, I shall be glad to help you in any way that I can in making the presentation to the White House.

I want to say again how delighted I am to know that this excellent Portrait of Mrs. Hoover will at last hang in its proper place in the White House. We are all grateful to the Girl Scouts of America in making it possible.

Sincerely yours,

Sgd.

David E. Finley,
Chairman.

Mr. Leonard Lathrop, Director
Public Relations Department
Girl Scouts of the United States of America
155 East 44th Street
New York 17, New York

def lw

EXHIBIT P

C O P Y

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
Washington

November 29, 1950

Dear Mrs. Lenygon:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on November twenty-first, were delighted to know you were considering giving to the White House the two eighteenth century settees, and enjoyed seeing a photograph of them. The Commission were glad to recommend acceptance of the gift to the White House, if and when made. Although I was ill and not able to be at the meeting, I sent a memorandum saying you were willing to give the settees provided they could be shown as a pair and were not subject to such hard usage as would seriously damage the beautiful carving.

I have talked with Mr. Winslow and he and I agree that undoubtedly the settees can be placed in the Blue Room. This is a matter which cannot be definitely decided at the present time but I think you would be pleased with such an arrangement, as the Blue Room is not used except on State occasions, and I believe the settees there would be well protected. A definite decision cannot be made as to the exact placing of the setees at this time but can possibly be done in the next two or three weeks. I am reporting progress to you and will write you again very shortly.

I do hope the settees will come to the White House, as I think they will add great distinction to the rooms and it would be an incentive to others to give furniture for the decoration of the White House.

Sincerely yours,

Sgd.

David E. Finley
Chairman.

Mrs. Francis H. Lenygon
1016 Madison Avenue
New York, New York

def/b

EXHIBIT Q

C O P Y

in reply refer to:
H3015 NATS

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
National Park Service
Washington

Memorandum

November 21, 1950

To: Mr. H. P. Caemmerer, National Commission of Fine Arts

From: Associate Director Demaray, National Park Service

Subject: Funds for Survey of "Old Georgetown" Area

In accordance with your request, the following information regarding the status of the proposed survey of historic Georgetown is furnished for your use.

Public Law 808, 81st Congress, approved September 22, 1950, provides in Sec. 4 that the "...Commissioners of the District of Columbia, with the aid of the National Park Service and of the National Park and Planning Commission, shall make a survey of the 'Old Georgetown' area for the use of the Commission of Fine Arts..." and authorizes $8,000 for this purpose.

It is our understanding that the next step would be for the District Government to prepare a supplemental estimate for the current fiscal year under which the authorized $8,000 would be requested from the Congress upon its return from its current recess. Inquiry of the District Government indicates that this step has not as yet been taken. It is also our understanding that the Permit Office of the District Government is currently receiving requests for building construction and alterations in the "Old Georgetown" area, and presumably these requests are already being sent to the Commission of Fine Arts for review. The National Park Service is prepared to assist in any way it can in the interest of the proposed survey and in the assembling of the required historical or other data required in the review of the current construction permits.

In the absence of Mr. Settle, a representative of the Service has discussed this problem in a preliminary way with Messrs. Nolte and Nolen, of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, who suggested that, since the data to be secured from the survey is primarily for the use of the Commission of Fine Arts, perhaps you would want to bring this matter to the attention of the Commission at its meeting on November 21. Should the Commission of Fine Arts wish to take the initiative in getting the proposed survey started, it is our suggestion that it communicate immediately with the Budget Office of the District Government and perhaps a meeting of representatives of the interested agencies could be arranged. We shall be glad to assist with the preparation of the necessary supplemental budget item and justification if desired. In our judgement the basic personnel requirement in connection with the proposed survey would be the salary of an Historian or Historical Architect (GS-9 or GS-11) for the period of the survey. The National Capital Park and Planning Commission may wish to make recommendations also regarding the personnel requirements for the survey.

(SGD) A. E. Demaray
Associate Director

EXHIBIT R